

ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY
27 MAY 1987
REMARKS BY ROBERT M. GATES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WE HAVE COME TOGETHER TODAY TO REMEMBER THE MEMBERS OF OUR PROFESSION WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. A STAR ON THE WALL -- A NAME IN A BOOK, OR FOR SOME, ONLY A BLANK LINE -- IS PRECIOUS LITTLE WHEN WE CONSIDER THE MAGNITUDE OF THEIR SACRIFICE.

WE ARE, BY THE NATURE OF OUR WORK, AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE NATION MUST REMAIN SHROUDED BY SECRECY. WE HAVE BECOME, OVER THE FORTY YEARS OF OUR EXISTENCE AS AN AGENCY, THE FINEST GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OF ALL. WE ARE AMERICA'S EYES AND EARS -- ITS FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE -- IN THE STRUGGLE TO PROTECT THE FREEDOMS MANY AMERICANS TAKE FOR GRANTED. WE HAVE TO BE A SILENT SERVICE. WE CANNOT SPEAK FREELY OR DEFEND OURSELVES ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE ASKED TO DO, EVEN TO FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND FAMILY. MANY OF OUR PEOPLE CANNOT ADMIT THEIR AFFILIATION WITH CIA. THE BOOK OF HONOR PLACED HERE CONTAINS MANY LINES THAT ARE BLANK -- MUTE TESTIMONY TO THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE OFFICERS HONORED HERE WILL NEVER BE KNOWN FOR THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH US.

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